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## **GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY, MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCE \$1.5 MILLION FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS**

*Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program to Help Promote Energy Conservation and  
Efficiency*

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 22, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley and Maryland Energy Administration Director Malcolm Woolf announced today that \$1.5 million in energy efficiency loans are now available to nonprofit organizations, local governments and eligible businesses for projects that promote energy conservation and efficiency, as well as reduce consumption of fossil fuels.

"Conservation is a key component of our efforts to move forward and build a more secure, stable, and sustainable future for Maryland," Governor O'Malley said. "These energy efficiency loans bring us one step closer to realizing Maryland's nation-leading conservation and renewable energy goals, by encouraging our local governments and businesses to take action."

Funding is made possible through the Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program, which was renamed during the last legislative session to honor Delegate Lawton and her dedication to the environment and energy efficiency for the State of Maryland.

"This is an incredibly attractive financing opportunity since loans are repaid through cost savings once energy efficiency investments have been put into place," MEA Director Malcolm Woolf said. "The Jane E. Lawton Conservation Program will provide qualifying organizations funds to make much needed energy improvements without the financial barriers that once may have prevented these renovations."

In order to be considered for the Program, proposed projects must (1) save energy, and (2) have a simple pay-back of seven years or less. The interest rates of the loans are guaranteed to be below market rate. Interested parties should contact Program Manager, David Cronin, at [dcronin@energy.state.md.us](mailto:dcronin@energy.state.md.us), or call 410-260-7543. Additional information, along with the application form, is available online at <http://www.energy.maryland.gov/incentives/state-local/janeelawton.asp>. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2008.

Last week at the Maryland Association of Counties' Summer Conference, Governor O'Malley outlined plans to secure Maryland's energy future through state and local partnerships, investment in renewable energy, and technology to reduce consumption. During his address, he stressed the need for robust State, local, public, and private partnerships to address the challenges of instability posed by growing energy demand.

Since taking office, the O'Malley Brown Administration has taken a number of steps to secure Maryland's energy future, including:

- Launched the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative, setting the most ambitious goal in the nation to decrease per capita electricity consumption 15% by 2015, which when fully implemented will save Marylanders \$5.7 billion (an average of \$190 per household annually) and avoid at least three new power plants;
- Proposed Strategic Energy Investment Fund to allow Maryland to take control of its energy future by investing in energy efficiency technology and clean renewable power;
- Promoted diversification of Maryland's electricity sources and "green buildings" to establish a more secure, sustainable energy future;
- Created the Climate Change Commission to develop an action plan to address climate change in Maryland and rising sea levels in the Chesapeake Bay; and
- Led efforts to implement Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative with 10<sup>th</sup> states to control carbon dioxide emissions in United States and supported the Global Warming Solutions Act.

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